



WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

SPRING 2021

EVERGREEN

MAGAZINE



THE RACE TO VACCINATE

THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD
SUPPORTS THE STATE'S MASS
VACCINATION EFFORT

WA GUARD'S RESPONSE IN D.C. | SHAKEALERT IS COMING TO WASHINGTON | REMEMBERING LARRY PIERCE

ON THE COVER

Staff Sgt. Nathan Korta, a medic with the 141st Medical Group from Fairchild Air Force Base measures out COVID-19 vaccination doses at an Independent senior living center in Lakewood, Wash. on Feb. 10, 2021. (photo by Joseph Siemandel)

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation, Washington Army National Guard stand in formation during a deployment ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. on Feb. 11, 2021 (photo by Joseph Siemandel)

WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT EVERGREEN MAGAZINE

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SHAKEALERT®

COMES TO WASHINGTON

THE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM FOR THE WEST COAST OF THE UNITED STATES WILL HELP DETECT WHEN AN EARTHQUAKE HAS BEGUN AND SHAKING IS IMMINENT.

The ShakeAlert® Earthquake Early Warning system is now live in Washington state, as of May 4, completing the West Coast rollout of the new technology. The system operated by the U.S Geological Survey in cooperation with the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network is capable of giving residents seconds of warning before earthquake shaking arrives.

“Nothing can replace families having an emergency plan in place and being at least two weeks ready,” said Gov. Jay Inslee. “We all know an earthquake could strike at any time. An Earthquake Early Warning system could provide the critical time needed for Washingtonians to drop, cover and hold on. It has the potential to save lives and reduce damage to critical infrastructure.”

This is not earthquake prediction. The alert system rapidly detects and provides information about earthquakes that have already begun and includes an estimate of the earthquake size, precise location and the shaking it may produce. Alerts may be delivered to mobile phones in areas that could experience weak or greater shaking in Washington state.

Though the system will be operational, there remains more work to do. The U.S. Geological Survey and its state and university partners, including the University of Washington, will be adding more seismometers to the network through late 2025 to further enhance the system’s capability. The sensor network is only about 65% complete for Washington state. Additional work with alert distribution partners is needed to improve the delivery speed of alerts to mobile phones for all earthquakes. Algorithms that estimate earthquake size and shaking continue to be tested and improved to ensure the system’s performance in megathrust events (i.e. the “Big One” Cascadia Subduction Zone). With the current ShakeAlert® system, in an M9 Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake, alerts will be sent but users farthest away from the epicenter may not receive an alert.

Since the majority of earthquake-related injuries are caused by people getting hit by falling objects or falling down while moving during the shaking, seconds of warning will let people take protective action before shaking begins, reducing the chance of injuries. In most situations, drop, cover and hold on is the recommended way to protect

yourself from earthquakes.

The system also has the potential to automatically close water valves to protect water supplies, lift fire station doors so first responders can get vehicles and equipment out, slow down trains so they don’t derail and even warn hospitals to halt surgeries, among many other capabilities. Dozens of pilot projects in Washington are already testing this technology to reduce earthquake damage.

There will be no tests of the system on May 4. Partners are still examining test results from a Wireless Emergency Alert test conducted in February. On or before May 4, residents will want to check their phones to ensure that Wireless Emergency Alerts are turned on. Most carriers have this setting turned on automatically, but some people have chosen to disable them. Learn how at <https://mil.wa.gov/alerts>

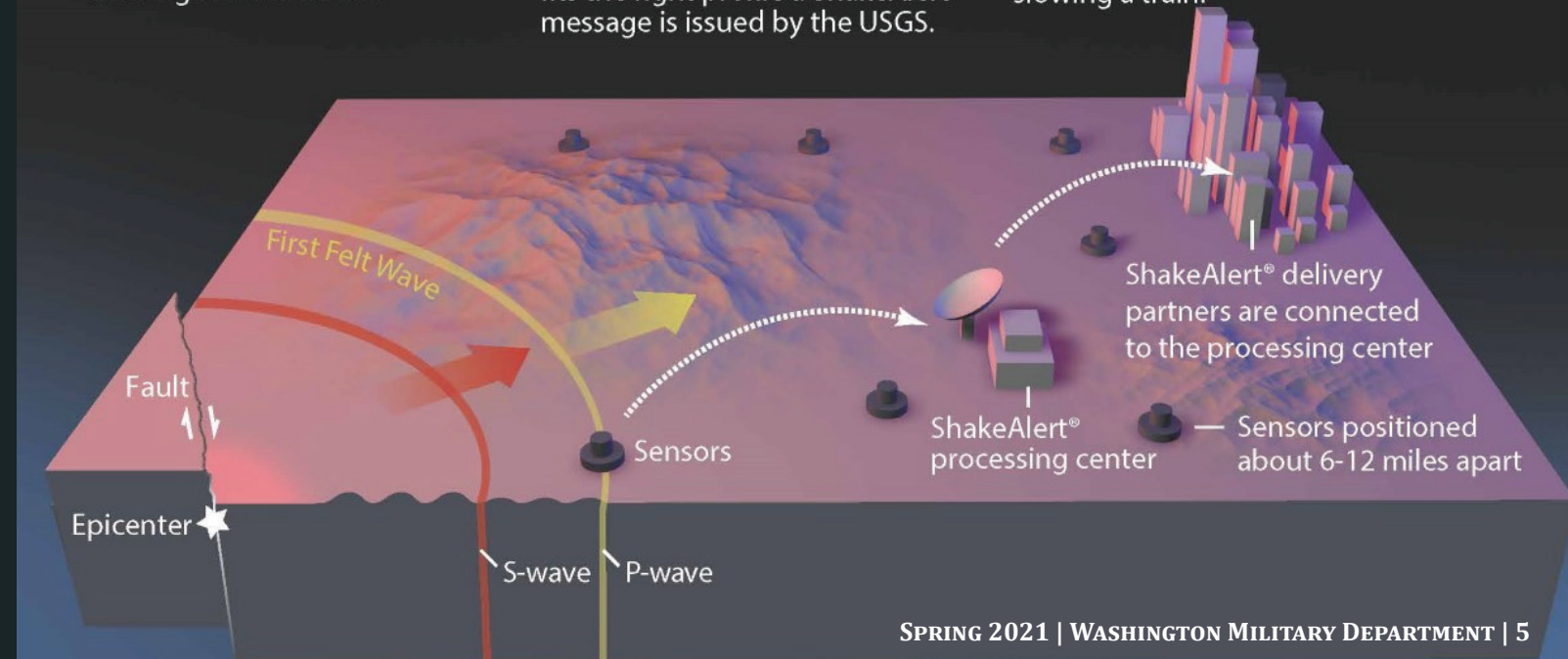
When the system goes live, Google has notified our agency that users of Android phones will have the potential to get notifications through both

Wireless Emergency Alerts and their phones’ own built-in software (which doesn’t require a specific app). Users will receive Earthquake Alerts only if they have their device location setting on and Earthquake Alerts enabled in their location settings.

Third party apps powered by ShakeAlert® may also be available when the system goes live in May, allowing residents and visitors to not only enable Wireless Emergency Alerts, but also download mobile apps giving more of a chance to get the warning before shaking arrives. The Washington Emergency Management Division is still working with third party vendors to determine which apps will be available to users in Washington state. - Story by Maximilian Dixon

ShakeAlert® Earthquake Early Warning Basics

- 1 During an earthquake, a rupturing fault sends out different types of waves. The fast-moving P-wave is first to arrive, followed by the slower S-wave and later-arriving surface waves.
- 2 Sensors detect the P-wave and immediately transmit data to a ShakeAlert® processing center where the location, size, and estimated shaking of the quake are determined. If the earthquake fits the right profile a ShakeAlert® message is issued by the USGS.
- 3 A ShakeAlert® message is then picked up by delivery partners (such as a transportation agency) that could be used to produce an alert to notify people to take a protective action such as Drop, Cover, and Hold On and/or trigger an automated action such as slowing a train.



Army Pfc. Valensce Ostrovkin, a combat medic with Joint Task Force Steelhead, verifies information on a patient's COVID-19 vaccination card at a community vaccination site in Wenatchee, Washington, March 19, 2021. (photo by Alec Dionne)

The Race To Vaccinate

The Washington National Guard Supports The State's Mass Vaccination Effort

As demand for the COVID-19 vaccine climbs, more than 120 Washington National Guard soldiers and airmen are helping the state's effort at four mass vaccination sites, while another 120 are making up mobile teams, traveling around the state administering the COVID-19 vaccination.

"We are supporting the Department of Health with medics to administer the vaccination, along with other soldiers and airmen to help with the logistics and administrative needs with running these mass vaccination sites," said Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty, the adjutant general. "Our Guardsmen have shown in the last year that we are always up to the challenge to help our state and nation."

Guardsmen are working under the direction of

DOH at mass vaccination sites in Spokane, Kennewick, Wenatchee and Ridgefield. Three mobile teams are conducting vaccinations at Independent Living Centers for seniors that are unable to leave their residence.

Guardsmen integrated with DOH employees and medical professionals quickly at each of the mass vaccination sites to ramp up the number of vaccinations given each day. The state is beating its initial goal of vaccinating 45,000 Washingtonians per day, and has since upped that goal to 90,000 per day

"I am just very impressed that they were able to hit the ground running and figure it out in just a couple of days," said Daugherty during a visit to

the Kennewick vaccination site.

Gov. Jay Inslee had a similar observation following a visit to the Ridgefield site at the Clark County Fairgrounds.

"We could not be more delighted about how functional this operation has become so quickly to bring so many vaccinations at such a critical time," Inslee said.

In Spokane, guardsmen streamlined the process after just one day, which decreased the number of providers needed at the site.

"We completely redesigned the process flow the night before to increase throughput and accommodate people with disabilities and in wheelchairs," said Maj. Heidi Leonard, officer in

charge at the Spokane mass vaccination site. "The integration of the Army and Air Components has been great for both sides."

Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Janseen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccines are being administered across the state. The availability depends on what the Department of Health has sent to the receiving county.

Beginning April 15th, vaccines will be available to all adults in Washington age 16 and older. To learn more about whether you qualify for the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the Department of Health's website at www.doh.wa.gov/Emergencies/COVID19. Vaccination appointments can be scheduled through your respective county health department website. - *Story by Joseph Siemandel*

Private First Class Gracie Hilinski, a medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 146th Field Artillery Regiment, administers a COVID-19 vaccination at an independent senior living center in Lakewood, Wash. on Feb. 10, 2021. (photo by Joseph Siemandel)



ISLAND HOPPIN'

MOBILE VACCINATION TEAM WELCOMED BY SAN JUAN ISLAND COMMUNITY



Senior Airman Mckenzie Airhart, 194th Wing, Washington Air National Guard, kneels while in a formation at the Friday Harbor ferry terminal, Friday Harbor, Wash., Feb. 18, 2021. (photo by Alec Dionne)

Tears of joy and sighs of relief greeted the Washington National Guard's mobile vaccination team late last month when they began administering vaccines on the San Juan Islands in Washington State. As the guardsmen set up the vaccination site community members gathered around, adding music and food as many community members saw their neighbors for the first time in months.

MVT specializes in reaching Washington residents in high-risk communities and those in remote areas. These efforts are critical in making sure that everyone gets access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Many San Juan Islands residents were skeptical if they would ever get access to the vaccine due to their remote location.

"Everyone was so welcoming and appreciative of us being there," said Sgt. Valorie Reed, a combat medic working on the MVT. "For many people I talked to, getting the vaccine is a step closer to being able to travel to see family and friends again. I'm grateful that we were able to fulfill a need in the community."

The communities on the island rallied around the MVT's site. The town bakery brought in pastries and people donated pizza for lunches. One person

even played the piano while patients waited and received the vaccines.

"There was an intense happiness to be there," said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Teets, an operations coordinator for the MVT. "There were many eye smiles afterwards."

The MVT's mission hit a snag when inclement weather temporarily halted distribution of the vaccine across Washington in late-February. Undeterred, the MVT returned on March 1, continuing where they left off.

The MVT continues to support the Washington State Department of Health to ensure that people have access to the COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of their location. The MVT will return to the San Juan Islands in the near future to provide the second dose of the vaccine.

The Washington State Department of Health requested the MVT deploy to the San Juan Islands to provide vaccines to the remote island county. The MVT's service members are nationally-certified and licensed medical providers. They hold the same qualifications as their civilian counterparts administering vaccines. - Story and Photo by Alec Dionne

WHY I GOT VACCINATED...

A few reasons... because I didn't want to get sick, I didn't want to possibly infect others, its the socially responsible thing to do, I want this thing to end and we can truly vaccinate ourselves out of this problem.

- Brig. Gen. Gent Welsh

I got vaccinated to protect myself, my family, and my coworkers. My job requires in-person interaction. Vaccination helps me reduce risk.

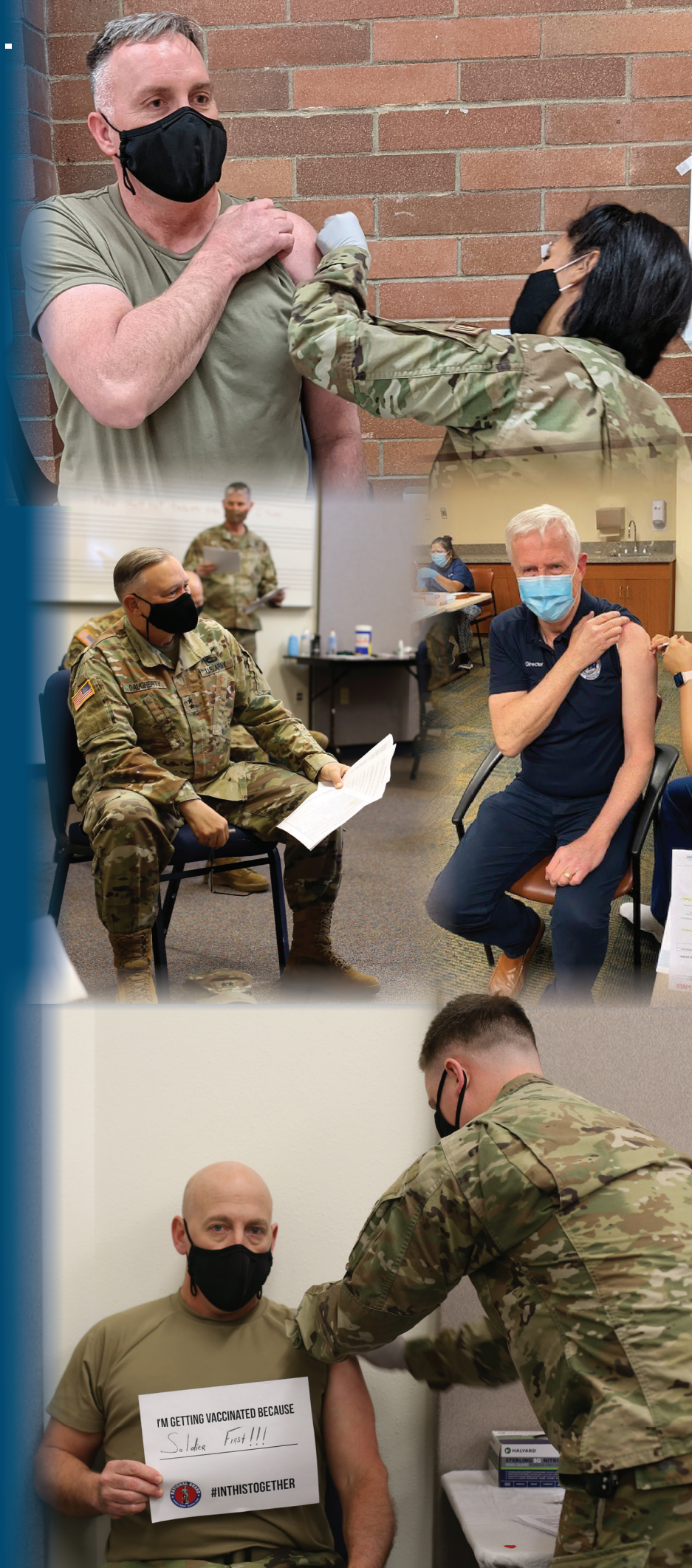
- Robert Ezelle

I got vaccinated because I wanted to set a positive example for our team and demonstrate that the vaccine is perfectly safe.

- Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty

One of the most important standing orders to any Soldier is to make sure they are doing everything they can to protect their Battle Buddies on their left and right. During one of the most challenging times in our Nation's history, we need every Soldier to ensure they are ready to answer the call. Vaccination ensures that I can keep supporting the mission and that is a "Soldier First" principle.

- Brig. Gen. Dan Dent





A YEAR TO REMEMBER



To describe 2020 as unprecedented would be an understatement.

“This past year has been a trying year,” said Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty, the Adjutant General. “We not only continue to support the COVID mission, we were called up for two of the worst civil unrest rounds in our state’s history, we saw wild fires spread in eastern and western Washington, had cyberattack attempts against our state network and still deployed 1,000 Guardsmen overseas on federal deployments.”

When Washington State announced the nation’s first confirmed case of COVID-19 in late January, no one then could have imagined what we were in for. Several weeks later, following the first COVID-19 death and a growing case count, Gov. Jay Inslee announced the state would close non-essential businesses and schools.

With people out of work, the need for food assistance increased exponentially. At the same time, volunteers who typically operate foodbanks were told to stay home, as many fall within the at-risk population for COVID-19.

In March, Washington National Guard personnel accepted its first mission, manning numerous food banks across the state.

“With so many food banks needing assistance we activated our Guardsmen to help man the food banks, as demand increased,” said Daugherty. “We then moved from just food banks to helping distribute personal protective equipment, transporting ventilators and beds and staffed COVID-19 testing locations.”

By June, more than 1,000 Guard members were supporting the state’s COVID-19 response. In addition to working at food banks, Guardsmen assisted the Department of Health with mapping the spread of the virus and assembling test kits. Personnel also assisted the Employment Security Division by verifying

unemployment claims, ensuring Washingtonians received their unemployment benefits.

“We had Guardsmen working in a number of different roles in the COVID-19 response, and every place we went, I would hear the same thing: how amazing our airmen and soldiers were doing,” said Daugherty.

In June, the Washington National Guard was thrust into another mission, as civil unrest following the killing of George Floyd awoke racial tensions across America. Peaceful protests provided cover for unlawful actors who stirred up violence in the streets, leading to night-ly riots in Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane. More than 1,500 Guardsmen were activated to support law enforcement officers in regaining peace.

“Our soldiers and airmen were prepared for whatever would come, be it peaceful or violent,” said Sgt. Maj. Travis Wise, operations non-commissioned officer during the activation. “We reminded them that these people are our neighbors, family and friends. We are here serving so they can freely protest, we were doing the right thing.”

As the summer started with civil unrest, the season ended with the Guard supporting the Washington Department of Natural resources on multiple wildfires across the state. More than 50 Guardsmen traveled to Davenport, WA to assist on the Whitney Fire, while helicopter crews dropped water on the Palmer, Evans Canyon, Mima and Sumner Grade Fires.

“We have people that actively volunteer to support the firefighting mission,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Travis Marzolf, a pilot with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 140th Aviation. “This is why they are in the Guard because these missions are important.”

While the Guard worked to put out fires, airmen with the 262nd Cyberspace Operations Squadron began

2020 WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

 **82 Million lbs of Food**
4.6 Million Meals

2.2 Million Test Kits Assembled

75,222 CITIZENS TESTED

 **130K EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DOCUMENTS PROCESSED**
10,300 APPEALS CASES WORKED

85,000 VACCINATIONS GIVEN

 **500,000 GALLONS OF WATER DROPPED ON WILDFIRES**

their support of providing additional security to the state’s election system.

“This is the same type of support we provided in 2016, adding that extra layer of protection for the Secretary of State’s office,” said Lt. Col. Thomas Pries, the commander of the 262nd Cyberspace Operations Squadron.

Guardsmen worked with the Secretary of State and Governor’s office to provide additional support to the state’s already secure election system.

“This was seamless team work between the Guard, the Secretary of State and the Governor’s office,” said Pries. “No one involved wanted anything but an accurate and fair election.”

After a tense election that was overshadowed by accusations of voter fraud a violent mob overtook the U.S. Capitol as the election results were being certified. In the state, a group of protestors breached the perimeter of the Governor’s mansion in Olympia. Over the next few weeks the Guard was activated to support two civil unrest missions, 600 protecting the state capitol in Olympia as the state Legislature began its

2021 session and 400 heading to Washington D.C., joining 25,000 Guardsmen from across the country to support the 59th Presidential Inauguration.

“I cannot tell you how proud I am of the amazing work our men and women did in support of the Washington State Patrol,” said Daugherty. “They helped protect our democracy and showed that when we as a nation and state called, our team was ready to answer.”

At the same time, the work continued to support the state’s COVID-19 mission, and a glimmer of hope began to appear as multiple vaccinations were approved for emergency use. More than 150 Guardsmen joined health care professionals and teams from the Department of Health operating four mass vaccination sites and a mobile team in the state.

“I am just very impressed that they were able to hit the ground running and figure it out in just a couple of days,” said Daugherty during a visit to the Kennewick vaccination site. “Our Guardsmen have shown in the last year that we are always up to the challenge to help our state and nation.”

Between the state’s COVID-19 response, civil unrest, wildfires and election security, more than 3,000 Guardsmen were activated in the last year to support Washingtonians at home. However, the state missions didn’t take away the requirements to support numerous overseas deployments. In October 2019, more than 400 members of the 1st Squadron, 303rd Cavalry Regiment deployed to Jordan to support Operation Spartan Shield. That deployment was the first in a line of mobilizations that saw 1,000 Guardsmen head to numerous countries in the Middle East and Europe.

“We not only deployed more than 1,000 in the past year, we are sending another 1,500 overseas this year,” said Daugherty. “We recently sent nearly 200 from our Chinook units to Kuwait.”

In the coming months the Washington National Guard will say farewell to more than 100 Guardsmen from the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team headquarters as they deploy to support a multi-national training mission in Ukraine. Later this spring more than 850 citizen-soldiers and airmen will deploy as part of a multi-national NATO mission to Poland.

“We continue to deploy our small teams from the 56th Theater Information Operations Group, our larger units from the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, our Army and Air National Guard aviation crews and so many other smaller missions around the world,” said Daugherty. “This year has been nothing short of historic.” - *Story by Joseph Siemandel*



STANDING GUARD

WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARDSMEN SUPPORT MULTIPLE CIVIL UNREST ACTIVATIONS

As millions of Americans tuned in to the Presidential Inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden, more than 25,000 National Guard men and women from the 54 states and territories stood side by side with federal and District authorities to ensure the peaceful transition of power.

Citizen-soldiers and airmen from each corner of the country came together to continue the long and historic tradition of supporting the inauguration, which dates back to when President George Washington became the first president. In the mix of patriotic ceremony and pride stood hundreds of Washington National Guard members.

“We sent nearly 400 of our Guardsmen to Washington D.C. to support and defend the constitution of the United States during this historic event,” said Maj. Gen. Bret Daugherty, the adjutant general. “We couldn’t be more proud of them for their service.”

While Guardsmen from the 10th Civil Support Team and 242nd Combat Communications Squadron knew for some time they were supporting the inauguration, for more than 350 Washington Guardsmen the call to support came after violent riots at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. In 72 hours, more than 300 Washington National Guardsmen and 34,000 pounds of cargo were transported to the nation’s capital region by KC-135 Stratotanker aircrews from the Washington Air National Guard’s 141st Air Refueling Wing based at Fairchild Air Force Base in Spokane.

“This story highlights the amazingly agile, responsive, and dedicated team we have on both sides of the state,” said Brig. Gen. Gent Welsh, commander of the Washington Air National Guard. “In less than 24 hours, the plan went from a mental bar napkin, to a white board, and ultimately into a plan that would become the largest airlift mission in recent Washington Air National Guard history, if not the largest ever.”

While the events in Washington, D.C., received much of the spotlight, the needs at home continued. Following the riot at the U.S. Capitol and tense protests in Olympia, more than 600 Washington National Guard members were activated to support officers with the Washington State Patrol providing an additional level of protection at the state capitol through inauguration day.

“The National Guard’s role will be to support the Washington State Patrol in their mission to protect Washingtonians, legislators, their staff and the buildings of the Washington State West Capitol Campus,” said Gov. Jay Inslee in a release on Jan. 7, 2021.

Soldiers from the 96th Troop Command and 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team deployed to Olympia prior

to the start of the 2021 legislative session, providing security to the members and their staffs as they entered the capitol area.

“I can not tell you how proud I am of the amazing work our soldiers did in support of the Washington State Patrol,” said Daugherty. “They helped protect our democracy and showed that when we as a nation and state called, our team was ready to answer.”

In March, 150 Washington Guardsmen returned to D.C. to support continued operations at the U.S. Capitol.
- Story by Joseph Siemandel

Soldiers of the Washington Army National Guard provide security at the State Capitol in Olympia, Washington, January 10 2021. (photo by Jonathan Tietje)



CONTINUED SUPPORT: Two Specialized Washington Guard Units Support 59th Presidential Inauguration

For some of the 400 Washington National Guardsmen who supported the recent Presidential Inauguration, the mission was familiar.

“Our unit had the great honor of supporting the 58th presidential inauguration and then we got invited back this year to support the 59th,” said Maj. Charles Parsons, commander of the 242nd Combat Communications Squadron, based out of Fairchild Air Force Base. “We used a lot of the lessons learned from January 2017 to prepare ourselves this time.”

Airmen from the 242nd specialize in providing communications capabilities using different satellites and radio systems, to include the Joint Incident Site Communications Capabilities. The JISCC is a communications bridge between first responders and other local, state and federal agencies.

“It is a really cool piece of equipment that is always changing to keep up with technology and continues to provide interoperability between other services and platforms to provide communication,” said Parsons. “The capability is quite impressive, and it all fits in the back of a trailer that can be pulled behind a truck and easily pulled out and set up anywhere within the state within eight hours.”

To support inauguration, the 242nd had a team drive the JISCC cross country and met the rest of the team in Baltimore before traveling into FedEx Field.

“We had the benefit of our team and 15 other JISCCs and six Mobile Emergency Operations Centers where we could spend time making sure all of our equipment arrived safely and without damage, and function properly prior to the inauguration,” said Parsons.

While the mission was similar to that of the 2017 inauguration, the added measures due to

COVID-19 and potential civil unrest made it feel a little different.

“What was more difficult is that there was a pandemic going on and we had to take considerations for that to mitigate the risk of COVID-19, so we had to practice physical distancing as much as possible, and hygiene, and alternate schedules in order to keep our teams safe,” said Parsons. “In 2017 there was only about 5,000 Guardsmen on the ground, this time there was about 26,000 that we were trying to support with our communications support.”

The 242nd wasn’t the only unit returning to Washington D.C. for a second inauguration. Ten members of the 10th Civil Support Team also supported their Presidential Inauguration. For some this was their second time working the event.

“We had a couple people on the team that participated in the last inauguration so they were giving me some of their experiences to plan for,” said Capt. Brady Plunkett, operations officer for the 10th Civil Support Team. “Truthfully all of that kind of went out the window with everything going on.”

When the 10th Civil Support Team received the call to support the inauguration in November 2020, the unit was not planning to take a lot of equipment from lessons learned following the 2017 Inauguration. That all changed following the events of January 6, 2021 when a violent riot broke out at the U.S. Capitol.

“We originally weren’t going to be taking that much equipment, but then again with the added security and everything that went on we ended up taking six tough boxes worth of equipment,” said Plunkett. “We were immediately assigned to Task Force CBRNE and got to work right away.”

Team members assisted law enforcement and other Civil Support Teams from across the country with sweeping the area for potential chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

“When planning for support, we were going to be sweeping around the capitol. But following the riots and the large perimeter that was put up around the city, we were assigned to the only spots civilians could come up to the gate and check in,” said Plunkett. “They monitored that whole area for radiation, dirty bombs and kept an eye out for any suspicious activity.”

Both units agree the experience is worthwhile and have learned a lot that they can use to support the next Inauguration.



MISSION READY

WASHINGTON GUARD AVIATION CONTINUES TRADITION WITH LATEST DEPLOYMENT

Along with supporting the state’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting law enforcement during civil unrest and dropping nearly half a million gallons of water on multiple wildfires across the state, the crews from 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation also ramped up for an overseas deployment.

“I am so proud of this unit,” said Brig. Gen. Dan Dent, Commanding General of the Washington Army National Guard. “I am proud of the way they have been trained, proud to again deliver them to a mob site, trained to the highest possible standard, proud of them for upholding that tradition.”

During a deployment ceremony on Feb. 11, 2021 at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., families and friends helped say farewell to nearly 200 Guardsmen who departed for Fort Hood before deploying to the Middle East to support Operations Inherent Resolve and Spartan Shield. These deployments are just part of the history and tradition of the Washington Army National Guard answering the call.

“I look back at the 2007 and 2011 deployments and those really shaped our organization and who we have been,” said Col. Dan Brewer, commander of the 96th Aviation Troop Command. “As I walk through the halls of the flight facility I am seeing so many new soldiers in our formation that have never deployed. This will be your opportunity to build your battalion and the identity that you want for it.”

The Washington Army National Guard aviation community has a long tradition of mobilizations in support of on-going operations around the world. In the last 20 years aviators from Washington have supported every major operation in the Middle East, including Operations Freedom Sentinel, Iraqi and Enduring Freedom and New Dawn among others. Last year nearly 250 members of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation deployed to Afghanistan in support of on-going operations.

- Story and Photos By Joseph Siemandel

Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation, Washington Army National Guard stand in formation during a deployment ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. on Feb. 11, 2021. (photo by Joseph Siemandel)

EUROPEAN TOUR - 81ST SBCT HEADQUARTERS ELEMENT BEGINS JOURNEY TO UKRAINE

The 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team has an interesting 2021 ahead of them, as more than one element is headed to Eastern Europe in support of multiple missions.

“The 81st has a busy calendar year coming up, following this historic time in the Washington National Guard with hundreds of volunteers supporting the COVID-19 missions,” said Col. James Perrin, Commander of the 81st SBCT.

Perrin continued, “We are on the verge of mobilizing the Brigade Headquarters to deploy to Ukraine to support the Joint Multinational Training Group Ukraine mission. Which is really a sort of ‘Advise and Assist’ mission working with the armed forces of Ukraine to build their security capacity.”

The 81st SBCT Headquarters element is there to continue the effort to establish a combat training center, using the model of the U.S. Army’s national training center. The Task Force will be acting in a number of different levels, as battalion advisors to the Ukraine Observer, Coach Trainer (O/CT), operations group that help with exercise design life cycle, and incorporating lessons learned into the next rotation.

With all the COVID restrictions hindering in-person training during the last year the Brigade has had to be aggressive with completing training requirements in a virtual environment.

“We have been able to complete exercise design life cycle courses, our O/CT courses, and refreshers on how to conduct After Action Reviews, leaving space in our mobilization time at Fort Bliss to complete any training that requires a hands-on approach,” said Perrin.

At the same time, Task Force Dark Rifles, largely from 3rd Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment, will mobilize and deploy to Poland to serve as NATO’s Battle Group Poland Force.

The battalion task force had a few different premobilization requirements as it will be part of a multinational division.

“They will be a multinational battalion task force, giving their soldiers experience working alongside other national militaries and opportunities to work with foreign forces throughout their deployment,” said Perrin.

Task Force Dark Rifles recently completed its time at the National Training Center, and the 81st SBCT Headquarters element is finishing up its premobilization training at Fort Bliss currently.

“We’ve had these missions on the horizon now for about five years, and everyone has understood that they are going on these missions, and now that the time is here we are both excited and nervous,” said Perrin.

The 81st SBCT is ready to complete rotations and bring their knowledge gained back to the Washington Army National Guard to incorporate the lessons learned into their own training. - Story and Photos by Sara Morris



Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Honeycutt bumps elbows with the Soldiers in the 81st Stryker Brigade Combat Team Headquarters element as they prepare to board their flight to Fort Bliss for premobilization training before heading to Ukraine as a part of the Joint Multinational Training Group on March 9, 2021. (photo by Sara Morris)



Even a global pandemic cannot keep the Washington Air National Guard commander from recognizing the outstanding performers for 2020.

This year the 12th annual Washington Air National Guard awards ceremony was held virtually via CVR Teams Live March 6, 2021, due to COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

“I’m so pleased that during a global pandemic we can all still safely and thoughtfully recognize the hard work and dedication of our outstanding Airmen in front of their leadership, peers and families,” explained Brig. Gen. Gent Welsh, WA ANG commander.

Prior to announcing the winners, Welsh explained that over the past year, the WA ANG has done a solid job in finding the balance between keeping the team and their families’ safe, yet accomplishing various missions.

“While many organizations were working from home during this pandemic, our teams were getting up every day, walking towards dangers in the community, and getting the job done,” explained Welsh. “In several cases, we had Airmen participating in three, even four domestic missions, only to turn around and deploy for six months overseas. We’ve closely managed our taskings over the year to ensure we are maximizing our volunteer capacity, while minimizing any involuntary missions.”

Even though the WA ANG has been extremely busy with COVID response operations this past year, Welsh wanted to highlight that WA ANG Airmen were also deploying

overseas, providing elections cyber support, innovating systems and processes, and tackling federal and state missions in some pretty awe inspiring ways.

For example, the joint RC-26 and Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) team fought wildfires throughout the West coast and in only five months, this team flew 140 sorties totaling 513 hours, mapped 253 fires, searched 1.2 million square miles, and supported JTACs on the ground coordinating information between ground incident commanders and aircrews.

The 141st Air Refueling Wing maintainers, aircrew, mission support, and medical professionals deployed as part of the 506th Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron in support of the Bomber Task Force and allied partner air forces in the INDO-PACOM theater. They successfully executed 85 KC-135 sorties, while offloading 2.5 million pounds of jet fuel.

The Western Air Defense Sector (WADS) was highlighted for leading nationally for innovation when the WADS team participated in a national level exercise testing concepts of the Advanced Battle Management System, which will bring new opportunities and capabilities to the sector in the coming years.

Welsh closed his remarks by saying that, “the list of accomplishments this last year goes on and on. 2020 challenged us all in many ways, professional and personal, and even in the face of extreme stress, uncertainty, and adversity, our Airmen absolutely hit it out of the park, time and time again.” - Story by Kim Burke

WASHINGTON AIR NATIONAL GUARD AWARD WINNERS:

RECRUITING & RETENTION MANAGER OF THE YEAR:
MASTER SGT. RUBEN WRIGHT, 141ST AIR REFUELING WING

Wright is the recruiting & retention flight chief for the 141st Air Refueling Wing’s Spokane Flight, Fairchild AFB, Wash. He is responsible for the supervision, administration and management of wing recruiting and retention programs.



OUTSTANDING NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:
STAFF SGT. STEVEN. J. ZIPAY, 194TH WING

Zipay is a geospatial intelligence targeteer with the 194th Intelligence Squadron, 194th Wing, Camp Murray, Wash. Zipay produces critical products for the 363rd Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group and intelligence community as part of the Air Force Targeting Enterprise to fortify Combatant Command operations plans.

OUTSTANDING SENIOR NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF THE YEAR:
MASTER SGT. SUSANNE C. MENSIK, 141ST AIR REFUELING WING

Mensik is a medical element chief for the 116th Air Refueling Squadron, 141st Air Refueling Wing, Fairchild AFB, Wash. Mensik advises and assists her group leadership on the health and welfare of 120 Airmen. She coordinates unit deployments, occupational health, and medical readiness programs for all individual medical requirements, waivers, flight statuses and initial flying class III physicals. She also coordinates medical screening, testing and contact tracing during COVID-19.



FIRST SERGEANT OF THE YEAR:
SENIOR MASTER SGT. JENNY M. WIRKKALA, 194TH WING

Wirkkala is the first sergeant for the 116th ASOS, 194th Wing, Camp Murray, Wash. She communicates and advises the commander on matters of health, morale, welfare, training, and utilization of unit personnel. Her duties include professional guidance, counseling personnel on qualities of leadership and followership, and personal and professional development. She also monitors administrative actions, performance reports, awards, decorations, professional military education, and family care programs.

BASE HONOR GUARD PROGRAM MANAGER OF THE YEAR:
TECH. SGT. COURTNEY F. LAWSON, WESTERN AIR DEFENSE SECTOR

Lawson is a knowledge manager with the 225th Support Squadron, WADS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. She is responsible for coordinating and distributing information for the 225th Air Defense Group, 225th Air Defense Squadron, and 225th SPTS. Lawson also performs the role of executive assistant to the 225th ADG senior enlisted leader.



OUTSTANDING COMPANY GRADE OFFICER OF THE YEAR:
CAPT. MATTHEW A. TASIN, 194TH WING

Tasin serves as the chief of training for the 116th ASOS, 194th Wing, Camp Murray, Wash. Tasin manages all aspects of operational training for the unit’s 78 TACP personnel and develops and implements the ANG’s leading Assessment and Selection Course along with the most robust One-Level Program. Additionally, he is an air liaison officer and JTAC who advises senior Army ground commander’s on precision strike and close air support integration.

OUTSTANDING CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:
DOUGLAS BRILES, WESTERN AIR DEFENSE SECTOR

Briles is the director of operations for the 225th SPTS, Western Air Defense Sector, JBLM, Wash. He is in charge of synchronizing the squadron cyber, logistics, and civil engineering resources to enable the WADS 24/7 homeland defense operations.



PRODUCTION RECRUITER OF THE YEAR:
TECH. SGT. JALISHA M. STORMENT, 194TH WING

Storment is a production and retainer recruiter for the 194th Wing’s Tacoma Flight. She supports the wing commander’s goal of reaching 100% manning by recruiting across all spectrums of applicants. She ensures applicant and service members are placed into a career field that best suits their skill set and needs. Storment facilitates palace-front/palace chase Airmen, coordinates officer appointments and assists Active Guard Reserve processes.

NOT PICTURED: OUTSTANDING AIRMAN OF THE YEAR: SENIOR AIRMAN JONPAUL S. GUYER, 194TH WING
GROUP AWARD: RECRUITING TEAM OF THE YEAR: TACOMA FLIGHT, 194TH WING
GROUP AWARD: FLIGHT OF THE YEAR: 194TH SECURITY FORCES FLIGHT, 194TH WING
GROUP AWARD: SQUADRON OF THE YEAR: 116TH AIR SUPPORT OPERATIONS SQUADRON, 194TH WING
NOT PICTURED: OUTSTANDING CIVILIAN EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR: DUNG NGUYEN OF T-MOBILE USA

BUILDING MEMORIES:

WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD COLONEL RETIRES AFTER 36 YEARS

Roger Wold had a lifelong dream – he wanted to join the military. So while attending Washington State University in 1985 he joined the U.S. Army Reserve. If first impressions speak the loudest, he’s relieved he had a second chance.

“I remember standing there, long hair down past my shoulders and the sergeant in the room probably thought to herself, who is this guy and why is he here,” said Col. (Ret) Roger Wold. “I think she was surprised when I returned from basic training and advance individual training that I made it.”

That second impression must have spoken volumes.

“She was surprised then,” Wold said. “But three years later I was surprised when she agreed to marry me.”

After a career that spanned 36 years, Wold retired during a ceremony on March 6, 2021 at the Information Operations Readiness Center on Joint Base Lewis-McChord. While it may not have been the retirement he envisioned when he first started thinking about it, it was still special none the less.

“I remember after I left battalion command in 2015 that I thought it was time to hang it up,” said Wold. “Kitty was the driving force to keeping me in, saying that I had more to give.”

While Wold, a field artillery officer, admits to being hard of hearing after so many years of shooting off rounds in Yakima, he admits he heard her loud and clear that day.

“I think she just enjoyed me being gone during drill and annual training so she could get stuff done,” said Wold. “I promised her that I won’t mow the lawn any time before 8:30 on the weekends.”

In what Wold called a career of building memories and strong relationships, he talks most fondly about the chance to deploy in 2011 with 1st Battalion, 168th General Support Aviation as a personnel officer for now Brig. Gen. Dan Dent, the commanding general of the Washington Army National Guard.

“When I asked then Lt. Col. Dent if this old artillery red leg could join him on the mobilization, he was more than happy to take me along,” said Wold. “I think it will be one of my fondest memories, the time I had with some of the most professional and best people I have

ever known.”

After returning from that deployment, Wold took command of the 81st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, which saw success in his tenure with their unmanned aerial system platoon.

“When I came in we were down at the bottom in flight hours for our shadows, but I have to give credit to my staff and Chief Kerr with the platoon. If not for their work we wouldn’t have climbed from the bottom five to the top five in the country,” said Wold.

Equally impressive was Wold’s work with the 205th Regional Training Institute.

“When Roger took over the command of the 205th, it was in a bad spot. The state was on the verge of losing the force structure and had to make some changes,” said Dent during the ceremony. “Not only did he change the narrative of the 205th, in just a few years he built it stronger than ever and now will teach the Stryker Leaders Course.”

Wold credits the soldiers around him for their work, taking no credit himself.

“I have been a product of great leaders investing in me, working for people like Maj. Gen. Daugherty, Brig. Gen. Dent, Brig. Gen. Grenon and Col. Weitzel,” said Wold. “I have also been blessed with a great staff around me every step of the way.” - Story and Photos by Joseph Siemandel

Col. Roger Wold presents a certificate to his wife Mrs. Kitty Wold during his retirement ceremony at the Information Operations Readiness Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. on March 6, 2021. After a 36 year military career, Wold retired from the Washington National Guard. (U.S. National Guard photo by Joseph Siemandel)



THE LONG RUN HOME

A GUARDSMAN'S '26-MILE MARATHON' TO CITIZENSHIP

After being away from his family for almost four years, Senior Airman Stephen Mwangi finally reunited with his wife and son on Dec. 19, 2020, at the Spokane International Airport.

Stephen Mwangi, born in central Kenya, came to the United States in October 2016 after winning the Green Card Lottery with the goal of a “better life.” He said his dream of coming to the U.S. started as a young boy and the journey to his success is a marathon he will never forget.

On July 21, 2014, Mwangi met the woman whose smile would not leave his thoughts.

He and his wife, Faith, often spoke of his dream of coming to the U.S. but as time passed the dream seemed to become less possible. He had put his name in the hat three times over the course of many years in hopes

of being chosen as one of about 50,000 winners out of more than 10 million entrants. He had only heard rumors of the people who had won this coveted opportunity.

Then, one evening in May 2016, Mwangi received a notification. He had won the lottery and would begin what he describes as “a 26-mile marathon.”

This was a nightmare to Faith and of course there were tears. This was “the hard part of this story,” Mwangi said. By the time he finally reached the end of the paperwork process it was October 2016. Faith and Stephen were now expecting a baby boy. Stephen would be leaving them behind.

“This is the time to trust me,” he said to Faith.

Mwangi said he was grateful for Faith’s loving support as he started his journey. He returned to Kenya only briefly in July 2017 to marry the love of his life and meet his newborn son, Daniel.

Mwangi moved to the Spokane area and at first struggled. He started as a caregiver at a minimum wage job, working a lot while experiencing culture and climate shock.

“Everything was just different” he said. No matter what, he had to persevere. “The only option I have was to make it.”

Scared at the thought of failing but constantly asking himself, “What can I do to lead a better life than this?” a friend encouraged him to look into joining the United States military. After much research Mwangi settled on the Air National Guard.

“Joining the military, to me, I was considering something I can do for the country and also something the country can do for me,” he said.

If joining the military meant a quicker path to citizenship, which meant bringing his wife and son over sooner, then this is what he was going to do. On April 17, 2018, Mwangi left for basic military training.

“It wasn’t as hard as I expected,” he said.

The hardest part, Mwangi said, was understanding that “you are supposed to do as you are told.” English was his second language and the language barrier proved to be his biggest hurdle.

Technical school was a slightly different story. While attending in June 2018, in Port Hueneme, California, Mwangi said he had more struggles relating to fellow students due to his background.

Mwangi graduated from technical school and became a member of the 141st Logistics Readiness Squadron

in the Vehicle Maintenance shop, where he still hangs his cap.

After the allotted time in service, Mwangi was awarded citizenship in May 2019.

“One thing I find unique with ANG: They want to know about my family and they are willing to help,” Mwangi said.

He said he is grateful to everyone who helped him from the lowest to the highest authority.

Mwangi is also a full-time student at Spokane Falls Community College where he is acquiring his pre-requisites so that he may enroll in the nursing program with the goal of becoming a Registered Nurse.

Communication with his wife and son was often in the early mornings and late evenings due to the time difference. He said he worried every day that his son wouldn’t recognize him when they were together again.

Faith said she looked forward to touching snow. She had seen pictures of her husband in the snow

and wanted to “experience for herself ... what it felt like to feel the snow land on her skin.”

Mwangi’s piece of advice to someone about to embark on a similar path is to “run after your dream. The only person who can stop you is you.”

On Dec. 19 — more than three years since his son was born — Stephen, Faith and Daniel were reunited.

“Think about when a marathon just finished ... 26 miles. And now touching the finishing line. So, although exhausted, he doesn’t feel that exhausted. He feels the victory!” Mwangi said.

Lt. Col. Mark Scott, 141st Logistics Readiness Squadron commander, proudly witnessed the event at the airport.

“It reminded me of what our country stands for,” Scott said. “The land of opportunity. That day the American dream became true for that family.”

Daniel most certainly did recognize his daddy and greeted him with a big hug. - Story by Holly Hansen, Photos by Ricky Arnold





During the past two years, Gavin Zufall has been volunteering about half an hour a week with the food distribution center at the Chelan Douglas Community Action Council alongside his work-force development trainer.

COVID-19 put a little pause on his volunteering but recently he was able to return to his duties of supporting his local community at the food bank, this time helping members of the Washington National Guard.

Appreciative of his time working with the Washington National Guard, he has referred to it as the "Bee's Knees".

"We have enjoyed working with Gavin," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jacob Gappmeyer, the site's officer in charge. "So we presented him with a uniform and patches."

Gavin promptly posted pictures of himself in his new uniform.

"We even made him his own name tapes but he only wanted the U.S. Army on there," said Gappmeyer. "He is really cool, he is one of the only people that comes into volunteer with us."

Gappmeyer beleives that the impact the Guard has had on Gavin is like wise for the members of his team.

"We really enjoy having him there every Wednesday, our soldiers that have the day off will often come in just to help out and work with him."

On March 18, 2021. Zufall was recognized for his hard work and dedication to volunteering at a National Guard-supported food distribution center despite having cystic fibrosis and other ailments that preclude him from military service.



Former U.S. National Security Advisor and retired Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster headlined a Washington Air National Guard professional development conference on March 6. McMaster addressed Air National Guard members at Camp Murray, Fairchild Air Force Base, and Joint Base Lewis-McChord by video and spent time answering questions from Airmen.

In introductory remarks, Brig. Gen. Gent Welsh, commander of the Washington Air National Guard, described McMaster as a "warrior intellectual."

McMaster commended airmen "for what you've done for citizens in need" and said that the National Guard is "well-positioned to build our nation's strategic confidence."

"National Guard leaders are in an ideal position to take on the important tasks of educating teams about the challenges of today and tomorrow," McMaster said. He went on to describe the need to recruit more Americans to serve in organizations like the National Guard that foster "common understanding, mutual trust, and pride in serving together." Citizen Guardsmen can play an important role in healing the nation's divisions, he said.

McMaster's talk was part of a two-day professional development weekend for Air Guard members throughout the state, with the theme of "The Power of Human Connection." Members throughout the ranks were able to take time out of their drill weekend to hear from speakers, ask questions, and join in group discussions.

The other speakers included Alaska Airlines executive and retired Washington Air National Guard commander Brig. Gen. Jeremy Horn, leadership coach and retired Air Force Col. Jon Rhone, Air Force Academy course director and retired Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Bob Vasquez, Maj. Kristina Roberts of the Western Air Defense Sector, retired Air Force Lt. Col. Chuck Diven, Human Resources Advisor Senior Master Sgt. Katie Anderson of the 141st Air Refueling Wing, and former national security advisor to Senator John McCain and author Christian Brose.



Cadets who graduate from the Washington Youth Academy often have a mentor to thank for their success.

"Without Jeff, I think the whole Youth Academy experience would have been so much more difficult," said Dakota Ross, a cadet during the 19-2 cycle. "It gives you someone that you trust to vent to about what is going on when you may not be comfortable talking with your parents, your classmates or the cadre."

Given the importance of mentorship, the Washington Youth Academy is now encouraging more individuals to go through the mentorship application process, and ultimately – help a Cadet deal with the challenges of life. Jeff Hehe recognized the difference he could make in a young person's life by teaching them the skills and confidence necessary to deal with difficult situations and make responsible decisions for the future.

"When originally approached to mentor cadets at the Youth Academy, I talked with my own mentor and he said it is right in my wheel house, so I went for it," said Hehe.

Every cycle Washington Youth Academy Cadets are paired with a mentor that will help them get through the rigors of being at the academy, as well as help keep them on track following their graduation. Hehe has had the privilege of mentoring multiple cadets during his time with the Youth Academy as a volunteer.

"I learned that it isn't just something you do after post-graduation," Hehe said. "Being a mentor for a Cadet starts while they are still in resident phase. For Dakota and Jack, I was there the whole cycle, writing letters back and forth, building our mentor/mentee relationship."

"Jeff was there to talk with, I knew him when he was Jack's mentor and didn't even think of having anyone else be my mentor," Ross said. "I saw what he did to help Jack."

Applicants that want to be mentors need to understand the expectations and requirements prior to volunteering.

Mentors are asked to maintain weekly contact with their mentee, attend mandatory trainings and visit the youth academy on visitation days. After commencement, mentors are asked to maintain weekly contact with the mentee for the next 12 months, with a minimum of four hours of personal contact each month.

"You really build that relationship with you mentor," Ross said. "They get three mentor visitation days, where you only get two home passes and one family day. So you get more interaction with them than you do with say your friends. The letters from your mentor go a long way to keep you motivated."

If you or anyone you know would be interested in being a volunteer mentor with the Washington Youth Academy, please visit <https://mil.wa.gov/mentor-resources>.



Once again, the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion took national honors for having the top language professional at an annual conference.

"This year has been challenging between virtual drills, soldiers on the COVID-19 missions and the ever changing environment, but the professionalism of our linguists really showed this year," said Lt. Col. Casey De Groof, commander of the 341st Military Intelligence Battalion, Linguist. "It is really a credit to our awesome language program and professionals who continue to enhance our excellent reputation."

SPC Louis Delorme, a crypto linguist with Delta Company, 341st Military Intelligence Battalion was honored as the language professional of the year by the 300th Military Intelligence Brigade. Delorme, who has been on COVID-19 support orders for much of the last year has maintained multiple languages including French and three different types of Arabic.

"Specialist Delorme is an outstanding linguist and soldier, who consistently works toward becoming the best linguist he can be," said De Groof. "Delorme's continuous efforts to expand his language capabilities exemplify what it means to be a linguist, and his efforts serve as a standard that we all should strive for."

Providing premier linguists isn't anything new for the 341st, as it not only swept that top honor, the unit also received honors for having the top Korean and top Spanish language professional. The unit was also named the top language program in 2019 and 2020.

Delorme is currently supporting the state's mass vaccination effort with the Department of Health, but has continued to exceed the standard in Modern Standard Arabic, Arabic Levantine, Arabic Yemeni and French.

"He consistently seeks opportunities to expand his language capabilities by using his foundation in Modern Standard Arabic as a means of branching out into other critical Middle Eastern dialects," said De Groof. "He is a true volunteer, striving for opportunities to learn and grow, he continually delivers no matter his position."



**PACIFIC RIM
COLLEGIATE CYBER
DEFENSE
COMPETITION**

As cyberattacks become more sophisticated and damaging, the Washington National Guard's Information Technology and cyber professionals helped mentor new cyber professionals who participated in the annual Pacific Rim Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition.

"We provided judges for the students that took part in the competition," said Chief Warrant Officer Four Michael Olmsted, the Deputy for Information Management Chief for the Washington Army National Guard. "We also conducted injects that tested the students' knowledge and abilities."

The annual competition is organized by Highline Community College and tests student teams on their ability to assume administrative and protective duties for an existing "commercial" network – typically a small company with 50 or more users, 7 to ten servers, and common internet services such as a web server, mail server, and e-commerce site. Each team begins the competition with an identical set of hardware and software and is scored on their ability to detect and respond to outside threats, maintain availability of existing services such as mail servers and web servers, respond to business requests such as the addition or removal of additional services, and balance security needs against business needs. As the competition goes on, the scenarios and injects change based on what the students do.

"We have participated in this event every year," said Olmsted. "It is a great opportunity to meet college students and represent the Guard's Information Technology profession."

**PARTNERS
NATIONAL
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WITH STUDENTS**

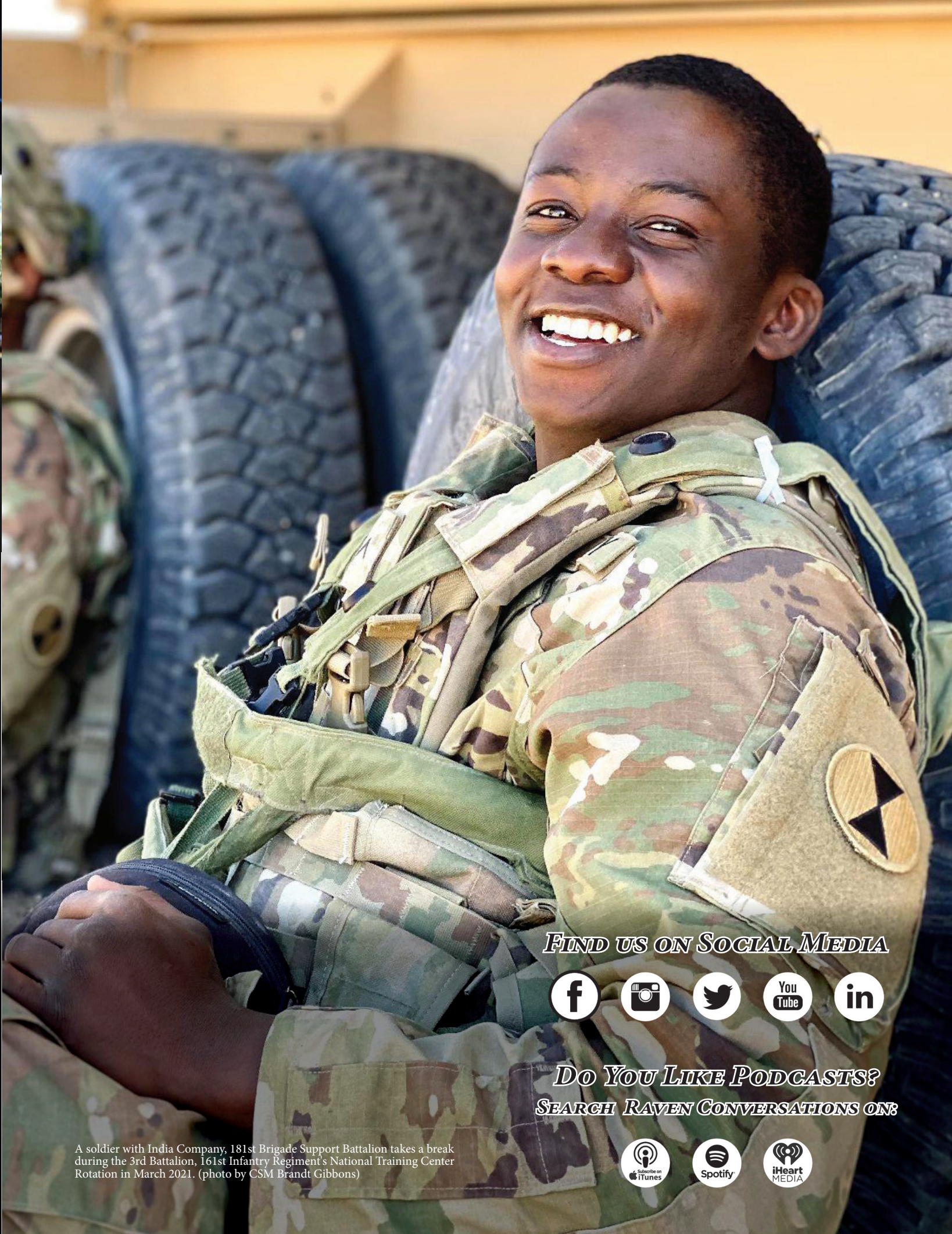
The ability to share knowledge and skills is critical for both the students and the Guardsmen that participate.

"Dr. Amelia Phillips, the program lead for cybersecurity and forensics, CIS/Computer Science Department invites us to take part, and besides us sharing our education and experience with the students, we learn about the programs and some new techniques that maybe our team wasn't familiar with prior to taking part," said Olmsted.

The Washington National Guard's cyber program is nationally recognized by many for the work done with the Secretary of State's office in regards to election security and the infrastructure vulnerability assessments done with various utility companies across the state. This has led to an uptick in the number of individuals looking to convert to the information technology field.

"We have seen an increase in overall interest in the IT field. We have more soldiers coming to the 25 series and have seen many move from enlisted to warrant office because they want to make this a long term career," said Olmsted. "It is good to see that this program is thriving and more opportunities are out there."

- Story by Joseph Siemandel



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A soldier with India Company, 181st Brigade Support Battalion takes a break during the 3rd Battalion, 161st Infantry Regiment's National Training Center Rotation in March 2021. (photo by CSM Brandt Gibbons)



Remembering Larry Pierce

Larry Pierce, Washington Youth Academy former director, recently passed away due to complications related to COVID-19. Larry dedicated his life to bettering the lives of others through education. He helped found the Youth Academy.

Larry started his career in the U.S. Army and then spent decades working as an administrator in the tribal school system, the community college system and the field of juvenile justice. He became the deputy director of the Washington Youth Academy in 2008 and served as director from 2010 until the end of 2018, before retiring after 36 years of public service.



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April is Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (SAAPM) is recognized in April by both civilian and military communities. The Department of Defense observes SAAPM by focusing on creating the appropriate culture to eliminate sexual assault and requiring a personal commitment from all service members. For more info, please go to <https://www.sapr.mil/saapm> or contact your MSC SARC/Victim Advocate

WAARNG JFHQ SAPR Hotline (24/7), 253-307-6483
DoD SAFE Helpline (24/7), 1-877-995-5247, www.safehelpline.org

April, 2021



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April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. Sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy, the Month of the Military Child is a time to applaud military families and their children for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome. The Month of the Military Child is part of the legacy left by former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. He established the Defense Department commemoration in 1986.



April, 2021



May, 2021

Military Spouse Appreciation Day
Give a shout out to your spouse on our JSS Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/JSSWA/>
May 3 - 6, 2021

And you'll be entered into a drawing for a gift for your spouse!

Shout out and the live drawings will be held on Military Spouse Appreciation day, May 7th

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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THE ASIST COURSE IS designed for members of all caregiving groups. Family, friends, and other community members may be the first to talk with a person at risk. ASIST can provide those in military roles the formal help with professional development to ensure that they are prepared to provide suicide first aid help as part of the care they provide. The next ASIST class is 6-7 May in Yakima. Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy spring in "The Palm Springs of Washington" and learn valuable suicide intervention skills. Email Erin McMicheal to reserve a seat
erin.m.mcmicheal.ctr@mail.mil



Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

May, 2021



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Camp Murrey, WA 98433
Phone: (253) 512-8989
mil.wa.gov

